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For Immediate Release
July 1, 2005

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Sen. Patterson strongly supports traditional hunting

LANSING – Remote ‘hunting’ over the internet by Michigan residents has now moved closer to becoming illegal as Senate Bill 620 passed the Michigan Senate unanimously, announced Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton.

“No one with any sense of sportsmanship can say that aiming a weapon at a caged animal in cyberspace is ‘hunting.’ This is an appalling abuse of technology,” said Patterson, an avid hunter and sponsor of the bill. “This video game version is an abhorrent practice; it removes all respect of the hunter for the quarry. It violates every ethical principle we seek to instill through our long traditions of hunting in this state.”

The three-bill package, including SB 373 by Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, and HB 4465 by Rep. Glenn Steil, Jr., R-Cascade Township, now has amendments that outlaw internet hunting from within this state, regardless of where the targeted animal is located.

Bee Friedlander, a Canton attorney involved with issues of animals and the law, said, “We need to send a message that internet hunting will not be tolerated in Michigan. Senator Patterson has been very responsive in addressing the concerns of those of us who are interested in this issue. His efforts have resulted in Senate passage of a bill which is both carefully drafted and broad in scope. I am hopeful that the House will agree to protect all animals, both in and out of Michigan, from being hunted and killed with the click of a mouse from within our borders.”

The bill adds penalties for engaging in this practice. For a second offense, the instruments used to commit it can be confiscated, in addition to prison time and fines.

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